

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 EA-12 ITC-01

DOE-11 SOE-02 DOEE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 /128 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4136

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 00341

USEEC

STATE FOR EUR/RPE; USIA FOR IEU, IPS, IOP; PARIS FOR OECD

PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: JENKINS PRESS BRIEFING ON CARTER VISIT TO EC

1. EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS HELD PRESS BRIEFING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 6. HE TOLD CORRESPONDENTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SET AGENDA FOR THE INITIAL INFORMAL 35-MINUTE SESSION RESTRICTED TO HIMSELF, CARTER AND A SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND EC OFFICIALS, BUT THAT DISCUSSION RANGED OVER THREE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FIELD. FIRST WAS US-EC-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AS THE KEY TRIANGLE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPED WORLD, AS REGARDS BOTH CURRENT PROBLEMS OF TRADE IMBALANCE AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID BOTH SIDES TOOK THE VIEW THAT US-EC AND US-JAPANESE RELATIONS WERE CLOSE, AND THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT NOW TO STRENGTHEN THE THIRD SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE, I.E. EC-JAPAN RELATIONS. THE TWO PRESIDENTS ALSO REVIEWED THE DISCUSSIONS BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN HAVING WITH

JAPAN.

2. SECOND TOPIC WAS NORTH-SOUTH ISSUE. JENKINS SAID HE STRESSED THE DANGER OF LOSING INITIATIVE NOW THAT THE UNCTAD COMMON FUND TALKS HAD BEEN ADJOURNED, AND THAT DURING THE COMING MONTHS THE DEVELOPED NATIONS SHOULD TRY TO AGREE ON A POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND AND PUT FORWARD PROSPECTS (SIC) FOR SPECIFIC COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A RUBBER AGREEMENT. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING THE JAPANESE TO INCREASE THEIR DIRECT UNTIED AID TO LDC'S. ON DEBT RELIEF, HE SAID THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD AN AGREED POSITION WHICH THEY SHOULD NOW TRY TO TRANSLATE INTO A NEGOTIATING POSITION. HE SAID THAT CARTER AGREED WITH HIM THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD TRY TO GET AHEAD OF THE GAME BY TAKING INITIATIVES THEMSELVES IN DIALOGUE WITH LDC'S.

3. THIRD TOPIC CONCERNED PRIORITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF. JENKINS SAID HE EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS AND ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT.

4. AT MEETING WITH FULL COMMISSION WHICH FOLLOWED RESTRICTED SESSION, JENKINS AND CARTER BEGAN BY UNCLASSIFIED

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READING PREPARED STATEMENTS (SEE SEPTTEL). THEN CAME A SLIGHTLY MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE MTN IN WHICH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND EC COMMISSIONER HAFERKAMP ALSO TOOK PART. JENKINS SAID BOTH US AND EC AGREED THEY HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN KEEPING TO AGREED TIMETABLE AND HOPED THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM IN 1978. WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS, THERE IS A FAIR MEASURE OF AGREEMENT, AND THOUGH THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THESE CAN BE IRONED OUT WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF GOOD WILL AND GIVE-AND-TAKE ON BOTH SIDES, BEARING IN MIND THAT WE MUST BOTH PAY CONSIDERABLE RESPECT TO OUR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUENCIES - THE CONGRESS IN THE US AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMISSION. HE SAID BOTH SIDES FIRMLY AGREED ON THE CENTRAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MTN, WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE WORLD TRADING CLIMATE OVER NEXT DECADE OR DECADE-AND-A-HALF. HE SAID THERE WAS ALSO AGREEMENT THAT THE CHOICE DID NOT LIE BETWEEN GOING FORWARD OR STANDING STILL, BUT BETWEEN GOING FORWARD AND MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE MTN OR BEING DRIVEN BACK INTO MORE PROTECTIONIST POSITIONS, WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE

FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

5. A DISCUSSION OF ENERGY ISSUES FOLLOWED, WITH EC ENERGY COMMISSIONER GUIDO BRUNNER AS WELL AS JENKINS AND CARTER PARTICIPATING. JENKINS SAID THAT HERE THERE WAS VERY SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT, PERHAPS MORE AGREEMENT THAN APPEARED TO BE THE CASE SIX OR EIGHT MONTHS AGO. OF COURSE EC AGREES WITH BROAD OBJECTIVES OF US ENERGY POLICY, HE SAID, BUT ADDED THAT THERE WAS ALSO GREATER AGREEMENT ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. HE SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO KEEP OPTIONS (ON REPROCESSING) OPEN AND NOT FORECLOSE THAT ROUTE SHOULD IT PROVE TO BE THE DESIRABLE ONE. HE SAID THAT THE EC SIDE
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STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US BEING A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR FUEL, AND NOTED THAT DIFFERENCES

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BETWEEN THE EC AND US IN THE ENERGY FIELD HAD BEEN
MORE APPARENT THAN REAL, AND THAT CLOSE CONSULTATION
WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS
IN THE FUTURE.

6. JENKINS SAID PRESIDENT CARTER THEN EXPRESSED
HIS VIEW OF THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE OF THE US
ECONOMY AND ITS RELATIVELY GOOD GROWTH AND INFLATION
PERFORMANCE IN RECENT MONTHS. HE SAID EC VICE-
PRESIDENT ORTOLI INTERVENED TO SAY THAT THE COMMISSION
WELCOMED RECENT US MOVES TO STRENGTHEN THE DOLLAR,
BUT STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING STABILITY IN
THIS FIELD IN THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AS
A WHOLE.

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7. INSTITUTIONALLY, JENKINS SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED
THEY HAD ABOUT THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK FOR US-EC
CONSULTATIONS, AND THAT HE AND CARTER HOPED TO
REVIEW US-EC RELATIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS - ABOUT
EVERY SIX MONTHS. ACCORDINGLY, JENKINS WOULD VISIT
WASHINGTON AGAIN LATER THIS YEAR.

8. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, JENKINS MADE THE
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

1) HE TOLD CARTER THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WOULD BE HELD "IN THE FAIRLY NEAR
FUTURE." HE REGRETED THAT THE SPRING 1978 TARGET
DATE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE MET, BUT SAID IT WAS STILL
POSSIBLE TO HOLD THE ELECTIONS THIS FALL OR, AT THE
LATEST, IN THE SPRING OF 1979.

2) HE REITERATED EC APPROVAL OF RECENT US USE OF
WHAT HE CALLED THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WEAPON OF
UTILIZING SWAP FACILITIES TO SUPPORT THE DOLLAR,
BUT SAID AGAIN THAT LONGER-TERM STABILITY WAS THE
KEY ISSUE AND HOPED THAT THE US WOULD PERSISTENTLY
PURSUE ITS POLICY TOWARD THAT END.

3) HE SAID THAT THE EC WELCOMED THE PROSPECT OF
COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT, INDEED EMBRACED IT WITH
ENTHUSIASM, BUT REALIZED THE PROBLEMS IT WOULD
PRESENT, SUCH AS INCREASED COMPETITION IN MEDITERRANEAN

AGRICULTURE AND DECISION-MAKING DIFFICULTIES IN THE

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE SAID THAT MANY OF THESE
WERE, IN FACT, PROBLEMS THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE TO
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FACE IN ANY CASE, BUT THAT THEY WERE POSED
PARTICULARLY CLEARLY IN THE ENLARGEMENT CONTEXT.

4) HE SAID THAT IN THE MTN, THE US ATTACHES
GREAT IMPORTANCE TO TARIFF REDUCTIONS WHILE THE
COMMUNITY LAYS GREATER STRESS ON NON-TARIFF
MEASURES, BUT RE-EMPHASIZED THAT WITH GOOD WILL
THESE DIFFERENCES COULD BE OVERCOME, AS COULD
THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES ON AGRICULTURE, WHERE WE
ARE CERTAINLY CLOSER TOGETHER NOW THAN WE WERE A
COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. HE SAID WE HAD A GOOD
UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS AND SHOULD
BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A BALANCED PACKAGE.
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